

Extract from talk by Dr. Charles Malik, Minister of Lebanon in the United States: CONCERNING COMMUNISM: THE MENACE AND THE CHALLENGE

"... I shall therefore now suggest in barest outline what I believe to be the elements of the Western faith, the basic findings of the last four thousand years, findings which mankind can overlook or rebel against only at its supreme peril.

(1) There is an objective truth to be sought and found, a truth about nature, man, society, history and the final things.

(2) There is thus a natural law and order to which we must submit if we are to be happy.

(3) There is an hierarchy of being, an order of values, a higher and a lower in the scale of things. Good consists in rejoicing in and obeying this order; evil, in trying to subvert it.

(4) Human reason, thoroughly disciplined in the cumulative positive tradition, is perfectly adequate, by free and critical inquiry, to discover this truth, this law, and this hierarchy.

(5) Man is free to be or not to be in the truth. He is free to rebel against nature. But as surely as the night follows the day, if he rebels, he will have to pay a heavy price by way of suffering and death, even unto the third and fourth generations.

(6) Our freedom of thought, conscience and decision is something absolutely sacred. It is by this freedom that we share in the perpetual act of creation. Take this freedom away from man, and he is immediately dehumanized.

(7) The other person is never a means only, but always also an end. Therefore his humanity must be respected.

(8) The human person does not exist for the sake of society and the state; on the contrary, society and the state exist for the sake of the human person.

(9) History is not all in vain; we do not start all over again. There is a real, positive heritage accumulating itself for four thousand years. This heritage of truth and being is the most precious thing in the world.

(10) There is a God. He is a living person. He created heaven and earth and has authentically revealed Himself in history. His essence is love, and therefore He both suffers and has suffered for our sins, and always forgives.

(11) The intellectual

(11) The intellectual and spiritual principles in man are supreme over any other principle. Thus our primary duty is to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The material is derivative from the spiritual.

(12) Man--you and I in the first person--is destined to eternal life. Our present life is a mockery and a hopeless unintelligibility without reference to the next.

This body of doctrine is the soul of the West. It is what has made the West to be itself. It is a permanent acquisition of the human spirit. I believe heaven and earth will perish, but this deposit of truth and certainty will never pass away. This is the fighting faith of the West, this is the standard under which alone the West can be true to itself. And if a life-or-death struggle is forced upon Western civilization, this is the ensign of truth in whose name alone it can fight and conquer.

People must realize the ultimate things that are in the balance. For what is ultimately in the balance is not this or that government, not this or that economic system, not this or that person who happens to be in power today, not the home and the hearth and the children, but the dearest persuasions and certainties of the last four thousand years. What is under ruthless attack is nothing short of reason, order, nature, truth, freedom, human dignity, history, God, love and the higher things. It is these matters, without which there would never be light and culture in Europe and America today, that are systematically undermined, ridiculed, denied, conspired against. There is a determined attempt to see that they are eradicated from the surface of the earth. When people take in the concrete significance of their beleaguered heritage, it is impossible for them to remain any more in doubt: They will rise to the highest pitch of certainty and resolve.

The tragedy of the present moment is that many people have lost faith in this priceless intellectual and spiritual heritage of the West. They worship alien gods. The present crisis is fundamentally one of faith, faith in the abiding values which have been culled from the sweat and tears of the ages. And therefore the battle is as much against this widespread loss of faith within the Western world itself, as against the foreign enemies. In fact there would be today no foreign enemies at all if faith in the spirit and the mind had not weakened. The fundamental battle is against cynicism, uprootedness, self-estrangement and despair.

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I do not believe the real issue of the second half of the twentieth century to be either Communism, or the rising East; I believe the real issue of our times is whether America, having completed the tremendous century-old task of taming and integrating a whole continent, will now turn, with the same zeal which characterized her material adventure, to the intellectual and spiritual foundations of her own life, to the end that, rediscovering and reaffirming them, she might mediate them to the

whole world

whole world. I also believe America could not in reality perform this task except by being absolutely faithful to her Christian tradition, without which she herself would have been impossible in the first place.

I think, therefore, there is a prayer which one--whether an American or a non-American--must utter today:

May the United States accept with boldness, but also with humility, the role of leadership which God has assigned to her;

May she discharge this role with honor, determination, humor, fairness, and absolute good will;

And may she draw from her deep Christian heritage the necessary strength, the necessary vision, the necessary sense of destiny, the necessary joy, for the wonderful task of the moment.